

## PREFACE

/CONSIDERING the recency of French colonization in Indo-China,  
V/^it has given birth to an unusually rich and vast literature of more than three thousand books in French. Works in other languages are few and negligible. Lost between the more stimulating and turbulent countries of India and China, and boasting an almost wholly peaceful development for the last seventy-five years, Indo-China has been largely lost to view. But since the War the growth of Chinese Communism, the growing recognition of the importance of the Pacific, and the more recent sop to Cerberus in the form of African colonies proffered to Hitler have all given new significance to the lands bordering upon it. French Indo-China deserves to be better known, not only in France itself, but also in those countries which have a stake in the Far East. In spite of its latent wealth, Indo-China lies too far off the main scene of action to play any but a secondary role in the Pacific drama. Yet in its local problems and in its reaction to a Western civilization It has had to accept, this colony deserves serious study. The process of amalgamation, flux, and interpenetration not only of two widely opposed Oriental cultures, but in their reactions to an Occidental power which forces them into new channels of thought, action, and feeling, offer a fascinating field for observation.

To the wealth of available written material there are a number of excellent guides. Of these the two most important are H. Cordier's *Bibliotheca Indosinica*, which includes works on aU the countries of the peninsula up to 1912, and the continuation of this great biblio-

graphy ably carried on by P. Boudet and H. Bourgeois. In Indo-China a Library and Archive Service was created in 1917, and the following year a catalogue for the Central Library was begun. The excellent collections of the *Ecok Franfaise d\* Extreme Orient* and of the colony's Buddhist Institutes deserve special mention. Outside of the colony, Paris is naturally the riches! field. The libraries of the *Agence Economique de rindochine*, the *Ecole Coloniale*, the *Btbtiotheqie Natianale*, the Ministry of the Colonies, the Colonial Museum, and the Archives of the Society of Foreign Missions and of the Grand Orient are valuable in the order of their sequence. Official documents are conspicuously unavailable, excepting for statistics and popularization purposes, for the study of a colony of such comparative importance.

The excellence, variety, and quantity of printed material on Indo-